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10/766,405	01/27/2004	Masakazu Koyanagi	450100-4405.1	3366

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 02/11/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that nothing in Moezzi teaches or suggests generating a panorama picture by mapping a plurality of pictures onto a virtual spherical surface representing said spherical surface, pages 2-4 of the remarks.

The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. It is submitted that Moezzi teaches generating a panorama picture (fig. 8c) by mapping a plurality of pictures (FIG. 8, consisting of FIGS. 8a through FIG. 8c, are synthetic video images generated from original video by the immersive video system in accordance with the present invention, the synthetic images respectively showing a "bird's eye view", a ground level view, and a panoramic view of the same courtyard previously seen in FIG. 6 at the same instant of time) onto a virtual spherical surface representing said spherical surface (col. 16, lines 9-13, note spherical panoramic view of a video scene may be generated from any point inside or outside the cylinder, hemisphere, or sphere).

Yamaashi teaches a whole image as three dimensional image taking in means takes images of the whole area viewed by the camera and displays the whole image on the display screen and moving an object at the position corresponding to a desired point generated with the desired area to desired positional coordinates of the driving means (figs. 11(1) and 11(2); fig. 9, Note display area 801 on the whole image as three dimensional image 802 is selected by using input part 108 in (step 91) 901. By moving, enlarging or contracting display area 801, the area to be viewed is specified by camera 101. This specified area is maintained in control section 106. From the coordinates of the rectangle 801 on the whole image, which is specified in the previous

step, control section 106 calculates and determines camera information, including a pan angle and a viewing angle for picking up display area 801 by using camera position detecting section 109 so as to pick up display area 801 in (step 92) 902. In (step 93) 903, control section 106 supplies the camera information calculated in the former step to camera control section 103 and controls camera 101). In view of the discussion above, the claimed invention are unpatentable over Moezzi and Yamaashi.

The applicant further argues that nothing in Ritchey shows, teaches or suggests generating a panoramic picture by mapping onto a virtual spherical surface with represents the spherical surface in which the photographing means is disposed as claimed in claims 1-3.

The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. It is submitted that Ritchey teaches spherical surface in which the photographing means is disposed for photographing pictures (2 of fig. 1); an operation area (LCD, 27 of fig. 6) displays a panorama picture generated by mapping a plurality of pictures (13 and 26 of fig. 1, note the panoramic scene consists of a plurality of image segments (13) which form a composite image (26) on a single video frame 14) onto a virtual spherical surface representing said spherical surface (col. 45, lines 39-col. 46, lines 8, note FIG. 18 illustrates a video production unit 65 for viewing, composing, and distribution of television signals representing a panoramic scene of spherical coverage as virtual spherical surface).

Hogan teaches a system (12 of fig. 2A) comprises a monitor or display (28 of fig. 2A) for displaying an image (41 of fig. 2B) with an icon (40 of fig. 2B) and a cursor (col. 4, lines 57-60) to control the camera. Hogan further teaches the window (38 of fig. 8) display a picture and the larger window of the display displaying the selected point (X, 100 of fig. 8) then using the icon

(arrow) to move the selected point to the desired position in the window (38) for controlling the camera, so this disclosure would fairly suggest the camera is controlled by the icon and the driving means coordinates would obviously be varied accordance to the camera (col. 4, lines 57-col. 5, line 2; col. 7, line 55-col. 8, line 11). Hogan further suggests the cursor appeared on the selected window image, and the camera is operable to zoom, pan, and tile in the selected area, this would fairly suggest that the cursor would have a current position (coordinates) of the picture on the display (28). In view of the discussion above, the claimed features are unpatentable over Ritchey and Hogan.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Tung Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621